General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-ninth Session
Supplement No. 12A

A/69/12/Add.1

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Sixty-fifth session
(29 September to 3 October 2014)

United Nations • New York, 2014

Please recycle

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/69/12).

ISSN 0251-8026

[9 October 2014]

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Introduction	4
	A. Opening of the session	4
	B. Representation on the Committee	4
	C. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	5
	D. Election of officers for the sixty-sixth session	6
II.	Work of the sixty-fifth session	6
III.	Decisions of the Executive Committee	6
	A. General decision on administrative, financial and programme matters	6
	B. Decision on the programme of work of the Standing Committee in 2015	7
	C. Decision on observer participation in meetings of the Standing Committee in 2014-2015	8
	D. Decision on the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Committee	9
Annexes		
I.	Statement of the Executive Committee on enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa	10
II.	Chairperson's summary of the general debate	12

I. Introduction

A. Opening of the session

1. The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme held its sixty-fifth plenary session at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, from 29 September to 3 October 2014. It was opened by the Chairperson, His Excellency Ambassador Choi Seokyoung (Republic of Korea).

B. Representation on the Committee

2. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Zambia.

3. The Governments of the following States were present as observers:

Angola, Armenia, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Kuwait, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Myanmar, Nepal, the Niger, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Qatar, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, Uruguay, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, as well as the State of Palestine.

4. The European Union was represented as an observer.

5. Also present were the following intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and other entities:

African Development Bank, African Union, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, International Organization for Migration, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

6. The United Nations system was represented as follows:

Economic Commission for Africa; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations Population Fund, and the World Food Programme.

7. Almost 35 non-governmental organizations were in attendance.

C. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

8. The Executive Committee adopted by consensus the following agenda (A/AC.96/LXV/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. High-level segment on "Enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa".
4. Statement by the High Commissioner and general debate.
5. Consideration of reports on the work of the Standing Committee:
   (a) International protection;
   (b) Programme budgets, management, financial control and administrative oversight.
6. Consideration of reports relating to programme and administrative oversight and evaluation.
7. Consideration and adoption of the Biennial Programme Budget 2014-2015 (revised).
8. Review of the annual consultations with non-governmental organizations.
9. Other statements.
10. Meetings of the Standing Committee in 2015.
11. Consideration of the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Committee.
12. Election of officers.
13. Any other business.
14. Adoption of the report of the sixty-fifth session of the Executive Committee.
15. Closing of the session.

D. Election of officers for the sixty-sixth session

9. Under Rule 10 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation, to serve the Committee from the day immediately following their election to the end of the last day of the following annual plenary session:

Chairperson:	H.E. Ambassador Pedro Comissário (Mozambique)
Vice-Chairperson:	H.E. Ambassador Carsten Staur (Denmark)
Vice-Chairperson:	H.E. Ambassador Elissa Golberg (Canada)
Rapporteur:	[Deferred[1]]

II. Work of the sixty-fifth session

10. The sixty-fifth session began with a high-level segment on "Enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa." A statement adopted by the Executive Committee at the end of the high-level segment is contained in annex I.

11. A summary of the general debate, delivered by the Chairperson, is contained in annex II.

12. The High Commissioner's statements delivered during the session, including for the high-level segment, and summary records of each meeting are available on UNHCR's website (http://www.unhcr.org/excom).

III. Decisions of the Executive Committee

A. General decision on administrative, financial and programme matters

13. *The Executive Committee*,

(a) *Recalls* that the Executive Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, approved an original budget for 2014 covering total requirements of $5,307,842,800; *notes* that the additional needs under supplementary budgets in 2014 amount to $928,376,096; *approves* the total revised requirements for 2014 amounting to $6,236,218,896; and *authorizes* the High Commissioner, within these total appropriations, to effect adjustments in regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters budgets;

(b) *Confirms* that the activities proposed in the biennial programme budget for the years 2014-2015 (revised), as set out in document A/AC.96/1136, are consistent with the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner (A/RES/428 (V)); the High Commissioner's other functions as recognized, promoted or requested by the General Assembly, the Security Council, or the Secretary-General; and the relevant provisions of the financial rules for voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees (A/AC.96/503/Rev.10);

[1] As discussions on the nomination of a Rapporteur from within the Asia group were ongoing, it was decided that as soon as a candidate had been selected, the name of the candidate would be circulated to the members of the Executive Committee for election by silent procedure.

(c) *Approves* the programmes and budgets for regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters under the proposed 2014-2015 biennial budget (revised), as set out in document A/AC.96/1136 and amounting to $6,234,449,630 for 2015, including the United Nations regular budget contribution towards headquarters costs, the reserves, and the Junior Professional Officer programme; and *authorizes* the High Commissioner, within this total appropriation, to effect adjustments in regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters budgets;

(d) *Takes note* of the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the financial report and audited financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2013 (A/69/5/Add.6) and the Report by the High Commissioner on key issues and measures taken in response to the recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors (A/AC.96/1135/Add.1), as well as the Report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on UNHCR's biennial programme budget for 2014-2015 (revised) (A/AC.96/1136/Add.1) and various reports of the High Commissioner related to oversight activities (A/AC.96/1137 and A/AC.96/1138); and *requests* to be kept regularly informed of the measures taken to address the recommendations and the observations raised in these various oversight documents;

(e) *Takes note* of the closure of the special account for the Common Humanitarian Pipeline in January 2014 and the opening of a new special account for the Global Fleet Management Self Insurance Fund;

(f) *Requests* the High Commissioner, within the resources available, to respond flexibly and efficiently to the needs indicated under the revised biennial programme budget for the years 2014-2015, and *authorizes* him, in the case of additional emergency needs that cannot be met fully from the operational reserve, to create supplementary budgets and issue special appeals under all pillars, with such adjustments being reported to the subsequent Standing Committee meeting for consideration;

(g) *Acknowledges* with appreciation the burden that continues to be shouldered by developing and least developed countries hosting refugees; and *urges* Member States to recognize this valuable contribution to the protection of refugees and to participate in efforts to promote durable solutions; and

(h) *Urges* Member States, in light of the extensive needs to be addressed by the Office of the High Commissioner, and in parallel with the long-standing and substantial support provided by refugee hosting countries, to respond generously and in a spirit of solidarity, to his appeal for resources to meet in full the 2014-2015 revised biennial programme budget; and to ensure that the Office is resourced in a timely and predictable manner, while keeping "earmarking" to a minimum level.

B. Decision on the programme of work of the Standing Committee in 2015

14. *The Executive Committee*,

Having reviewed the issues before it at its sixty-fifth session, and bearing in mind the decisions adopted at that session,

(a) *Decides* to convene three formal meetings of the Standing Committee in 2015, to be held in March, June and September;

(b) *Reaffirms* its decision on the framework for the Standing Committee's programme of work (A/AC.96/1003 paragraph 25, sub-paragraph 2(c)); authorizes the Standing Committee to add and delete items, if appropriate, to this framework for its meetings in 2015; and requests member States to meet in December 2014 to prepare a detailed work plan for formal adoption by the Standing Committee at its first meeting in 2015;

(c) *Calls* upon its members to continue efforts to ensure that debate at the Executive Committee and its Standing Committee is of a substantive and interactive nature, yielding practical guidance and clear advice to the High Commissioner, in keeping with the Committee's statutory functions;

(d) *Calls* upon the Office of the High Commissioner to be explicit and analytical in its reports and presentations to the Committee and to submit documentation in a timely manner; and

(e) *Further* requests the Standing Committee to report on its work to the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Committee.

C. Decision on observer participation in meetings of the Standing Committee in 2014-2015

15. *The Executive Committee*,

(a) *Approves* applications by the following Government observer delegations for participation in meetings of the Standing Committee from October 2014 to October 2015:

Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Nepal and Panama.

(b) *Authorizes* the Standing Committee to decide upon any additional applications from Government observer delegations to participate in its meetings during the aforementioned period;

(c) *Approves* the following list of intergovernmental and international organizations to be invited by the High Commissioner to participate as observers in relevant meetings of its Standing Committee from October 2014 to October 2015:

United Nations specialized agencies, departments, funds and programmes; African Union; Council of Europe; East African Community; Economic Community of Central African States; Economic Community of West African States; European Union; Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States; Intergovernmental Authority on Development; International Centre for Migration Policy Development; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; International Organization for Migration; League of Arab States; Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; International Organisation of La Francophonie; Organization of Islamic Cooperation; Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; Southern African Development Community; and Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

D. Decision on the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Committee

16. *The Executive Committee,*

Recalling its decision on working methods adopted at its fifty-fifth plenary session (A/AC.96/1003 paragraph 25);

Decides to adopt as the provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Committee the standard model contained in sub-paragraph 1(f) of the above-mentioned decision.

Annex I

Statement of the Executive Committee on enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa

At the end of the high-level segment on enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa, the Executive Committee adopted a statement as follows:

"We, Member States of the Executive Committee, underlining the critical and complex nature of humanitarian emergencies and protracted refugee situations in Africa and the challenges they present, and recognizing the immense efforts by African governments and the African Union to address these, renew our commitment to mitigate and resolve their consequences and to work toward the prevention of such situations in the future.

We note that throughout history, the States and peoples of Africa have demonstrated generous hospitality and solidarity to millions of refugees seeking safety outside their countries and to persons displaced internally within their countries. This solidarity has been reinforced by the 1969 *Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa* and the 2009 *African Union Kampala Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa*. Millions have been supported to find durable solutions, particularly through voluntary repatriation, while others have integrated locally or resettled to third countries. We recognize that host countries and the international community have made, and continue to make, efforts to alleviate the burdens placed on host communities and to strengthen the resilience both of the displaced and of host communities.

We remain deeply concerned by the significant number of people who are forced to flee their homes within their countries and across borders due to conflict, violence and other reasons including terrorism. We are equally troubled that progress toward solving many protracted refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) situations remains insufficient and major protection challenges persist, including insecurity facing displaced populations and humanitarian workers, *refoulement,* and other breaches of international protection principles. We are also worried that the delivery of humanitarian assistance has been hindered by limited access. Despite record levels of voluntary contributions, serious funding shortages have resulted in, among other things, reductions in food rations and other humanitarian support, and have hampered progress in finding durable solutions to displacement as well as in promoting the self-reliance of refugees.

We hereby reaffirm our collective commitment, through enhanced regional and international solidarity, burden-sharing and partnership, to support host countries and communities in building their capacity to better address and resolve the multi-faceted challenges of forced displacement and, in particular, to strengthen protection, improve the situation of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, and facilitate durable solutions, while taking into account special needs of vulnerable groups including women, children and persons with disabilities.

We therefore call upon African States and the international community to:

- Urgently pursue conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding efforts, while taking all necessary measures to provide safe asylum and protection to forcibly displaced populations in line with regional and international frameworks, commitments and principles;
- Strengthen the refugee emergency response capacities of governments and host communities, while ensuring effective coordination among humanitarian actors through the UNHCR in refugee situations and OCHA in situations of internal displacement;
- Strengthen the protection framework for IDPs through, where applicable, acceding to the 2009 *African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa*;
- Consider acceding, where appropriate, to the 1954 *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* and to the 1961 *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*;
- Take all necessary and appropriate measures to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and ensure a protection-sensitive response to mixed migration, including those who risk their lives at sea while trying to reach safety;
- Address protracted refugee situations by redoubling efforts to realize durable solutions including sustainable voluntary repatriation, reintegration and reconciliation as well as to provide increased opportunities for resettlement and local integration;
- Make efforts to elaborate self-reliance programmes based on the specific needs of refugees and IDPs;
- Include the needs of refugees, IDPs and returnees in national and international development and poverty reduction strategies, devise and implement projects to enhance the resilience of host communities, and enable displaced populations to live their lives in safety and dignity;
- Embrace all affected populations, including host communities, as active partners in the formulation and implementation of programmes and activities affecting their lives; and
- Provide, in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing, adequate and effective financial assistance, commensurate with needs, to support refugee and IDP populations and the communities hosting them.

We express our gratitude to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for supporting the organization of this high-level segment."

Annex II

Chairperson's summary of the general debate

The Chairperson summarized the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the Executive Committee as follows:

"The High Commissioner opened the general debate with a passionate appeal for all of us to come together in a time of increased challenges to fulfill the needs of those who have been forcibly displaced by conflict or violence. More than 80 delegations took the floor with recommendations on the way forward.

You have identified some of the daunting challenges facing the international community, and UNHCR and its partners — from the emergencies in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Ukraine; to protracted situations; forgotten crises; mixed migration, including human trafficking, smuggling and the increasing tragic loss of life at sea; rising numbers of unaccompanied minors; and one of the newest threats, Ebola. In this context, you have recognized the importance of the strong leadership of the High Commissioner and paid tribute to his dedicated staff and all humanitarian personnel who work in difficult and dangerous situations.

Delegations have reaffirmed the need to strengthen international protection and its underlying principles, such as *non-refoulement* and timely and unhindered access to the victims of conflict. States underlined the importance of the non-political character of the work of the Office and the centrality of its protection function.

I was also pleased that so many Member States expressed their support for ending statelessness and highlighted efforts to prevent and reduce statelessness.

Delegations also expressed support and called for additional efforts to empower women, address sexual and gender-based violence, strengthen the age, gender and diversity approach, assist marginalized groups, combat xenophobia, expand initiatives to assist urban refugees and continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office.

You have provided useful recommendations that I'm sure UNHCR agrees are part of the way forward. They include: maintaining and strengthening partnerships, especially with development actors, governments, local communities and civil society; enhancing education opportunities for children; broadening the donor base and engaging with the private sector; and improving coordination, as reflected by the recent agreement between UNHCR and OCHA on coordination in mixed settings. As the High Commissioner said, however, let us keep in mind that coordination is not the end but rather the means to better delivery.

You also encouraged UNHCR to strengthen cooperation with governments and regional and sub-regional organizations and, in that regard, the Committee welcomed the Global Initiative for Somali Refugees, further implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, the newly established Solutions Alliance, and the upcoming commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration, among others. It was also gratifying to hear of the many initiatives being undertaken by governments to improve asylum procedures and protect the rights of the displaced, including regional housing programmes, sustainable reintegration programmes, the granting of resident permits, improved registration procedures and the adoption of legislative measures.

There was recognition of the tremendous burden placed on host governments and local communities. As one government so appropriately stated: "We all need to step up to the plate and show more solidarity with the countries around the world that are at the forefront and which are carrying the heaviest burden of the world's escalating humanitarian crises. We must do so by digging deeper into our pockets as well as opening up our borders." Delegations commended the extraordinary work done by UNHCR and the High Commissioner for displaced people around the world.

Your calls to action — during both the general debate and the high-level segment on "Enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities, and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa," apply to all situations of displacement. I would like to highlight a couple, keeping in mind that this is not an exhaustive list.

First of all, you called for more systematic support to host countries and local communities, which provide an essential life-line to refugees fleeing conflict and persecution.

Second, you highlighted the need for a renewed focus on prevention and strong international resolve to bring about an end to conflict. As the High Commissioner emphasized and many of you echoed, nobody cures pneumonia with aspirin. There can be no humanitarian solutions to humanitarian problems — the real solution can only be a political one.

Third, you stressed the need to foster refugee resilience and livelihoods, to give refugees a chance to rebuild their lives. Interventions must not only take into account the emergency needs, but must also involve more sustainable, long-term programming that can address the root causes of conflict. The High Commissioner has spoken about this, but I want to reiterate the need to bring in development actors early on, from the beginning of an emergency, which can also be an important stabilizing factor.

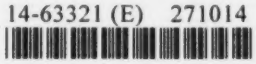
Fourth, you underscored the importance of redoubling efforts towards solutions, which the High Commissioner referred to as "the most challenging part of UNHCR's mandate." This includes the three durable solutions of voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement.

Fifth, you emphasized the need to do all of this in a manner that ensures that "no one is left behind."

Lastly, I would like to recall that we had an opportunity to listen to the powerful speech of the United Nations Secretary-General, who participated as a special guest in our session yesterday. This was followed by interventions from two donor and two host country delegations. The Secretary-General recognized the efforts and work of UNHCR and the Executive Committee for the sake of the displaced.

In closing the general debate, I appeal to you to remember that, behind the massive statistics, there are individual people — each with families, each with lives left behind and each with dreams of a safe and happy future. As the Secretary-General said, let us give them a sense of hope and remind them that the world is with them."

14-63321 (E) 271014



Please recycle